For Immediate Release Contact Craig Flentie 406.538.1943, 2/4/05

Lewistown, MT----The Bureau of Land Management's Lewistown Field Office will be hosting two workshops on Tuesday, February 15, for area food vendors interested in the business of feeding firefighters this coming summer.

The workshops will be held in the BLM's Lewistown Field Office on Airport Road with the first session beginning at 8 a.m. and the second at 7 p.m.

At the conclusion of these workshops, interested food vendors will be ready to do business with federal agencies during fire emergencies this coming summer.

During each workshop, food vendors will establish blanket purchase agreements and register for the central contactors registration system; both of which streamline the business process for both the food vendor and the government.

There is a questionnaire for vendors to complete to as part of the central contractors registration system. It would be most helpful if it was completed prior to the workshops. Food vendors interested in this type of business who have not received a letter and the questionnaire should contact Gina Merwin, a BLM fire administrative support assistant, at 538-1090.

"Our goal is to support area food vendors during fire emergencies and to make it easier for them to do business with federal agencies. I would certainly encourage those interested to attend one of these workshops," Merwin added.

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